



**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Health Care Quality and Cost Council
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**Health Care Quality and Cost Council
End of Life Care Committee**

Meeting Minutes

**Wednesday, February 6, 2008
11:00 – 12:30 p.m.
One Ashburton Place
10th floor, HR Video Conference room
Boston, MA**

Council Members Present: James Conway (chair), Beth Capstick, Katharine London, Michael Varadian representing Greg Sullivan, Dominique Kim representing Tom Lee.

Meeting called to order at 11:00pm

I. Approval of Minutes of Committee Meeting December 5, 2007 and January 2, 2008

The Committee approved the minutes of its December 5, 2007 and January 2, 2008 meetings.

II. Review of Final Committee Recommendations

- James Conway reviewed the Committee's draft Recommendations to the Council on End of Life Care. James Conway asked attendees to review the draft document and make any suggestions they feel will bring more clarity and focus to the document.
- Dominique Kim proposed that the Committee change its name to Palliative Care rather than End of Life Care. She announced that Partners Health Care recently began using Palliative Care instead of End of Life Care to refer to its efforts to improve the care that is provided at the end of life. Dominique emphasized the importance of being very clear and consistent throughout the document.
- The Committee discussed Dominique Kim's recommendation. The Committee discussed the advantages and disadvantages of using one term over the other and agreed that the Council is talking about everything that happens at the end of life, and therefore should not limit the discussion by using palliative care, which is only one type of care that takes place.

- The Committee discussed the importance of including definitions in the actual document stating that this would help in the communication. The Committee discussed ways in which it could include Hospice Care and Palliative Care definitions as part of the document. Rigney Cunningham suggested that the Committee look into using the definitions established by the National Consensus project.
- The Committee discussed the End of Life Education Campaign listed as one of the Committee's recommendations, and agreed to recommend that the Executive Office of Health and Human Service should be responsible for implementing this campaign.
- The Committee discussed and agreed that the report needs to include performance measures for each one of the recommendations listed. Committee members suggested looking into the Robert Wood Johnson report and the Joint Commission for measures that could be used to look at performance over time. The Committee also discussed the possibility of developing measures from the HCQCC claims dataset over time.
- The Committee discussed End of Life as a public health issue, looking at population based education and prevention, and not just clinical care.

III. Next Steps

The Committee will work to update its draft Recommendations to the Council. Members will ensure that there is a designee, due date and performance measure for each one of the Committee's recommendations before it submits them to the Council.